26th January 1949]

*191 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Sir, with reference to the various classes of people engaged in cloth trade, from the reply given by the Hon. Minister, I see, there are four kinds of people : representative buyers, wholesale consignees and wholesalers and retailers. And what is the margin for each of these is also given, Sir. May I know, Sir, what made the Government feel the need for having representative buyers in addition to wholesale consignees, wholesalers and retailers? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I have explained in the reply in detail the need for each class of people. Representative buyers move goods from surplus area and wholesale consignees aid to expedite the receipt of goods from the surplus area to various districts. Wholesale consignees are appointed at the rate of one for each district, though in the case of bigger districts and in special cases there are two such dealers. Representative buyers are forty-six in number and they move bales from surplus areas like Bombay, Ahmedabad, Baroda and Sholapur."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask, Sir,—I am here drawing the pointed attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that the more the number of people between the consumer and the mills, the greater is the burden on the consumer. In regard to local cloth there are no representative buyers and wholesale consignees and so the margin of profit allowed is less than that in the case of goods from surplus areas outside the Presidency? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Government are having only the minimum number of middlemen in this matter. The number has been fixed consistent with the speedy movement of goods from the surplus areas and quick distribution among consumers. That aspect of the question also cannot be forgotten. If there is long delay in removing goods, though it may be a matter of half a per cent profit to the wholesale consignee it may not be conducive to the people who consume the goods. So in the interests of the consumer the whole thing has been arranged with the minimum number that is possible to be employed. We examined the whole question in detail, and with reference to past experience it has been found that we cannot avoid these people in the trade."

*K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" In view of the fact that the number of bales for each wholesale consignee is allotted by the Provincial Textile Commissioner, is it not possible for the representative buyers themselves to despatch the goods to the individual wholesalers in the districts, just as the mills had been doing before control came into existence? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" That is exactly what we originally proposed to do. But it was found there was some difficulty in representative buyers doing so, because the quantity varies from one consignee to another, and it

was thought easier to move in wagon loads if there are wholesale consignees. It will mean quicker arrival at destination also. And that is why a new set of peopl has been brought into the picture. Now an attempt is being made to combine the duties of the wholesale consignee and the representative buyer and the Provincial Textile Commissioner is examining how the two can be integrated."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is there any proposal, Sir, to integrate the wholesaler and the retailer?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" That is one of the aspects that is being examined with a view to see that the number of people who are thrown out of employment in the textile trade is minimized by the Provincial Textile Commissioner in consultation with various trade interests. I have not received his final proposals. I believe if it is necessary, if it is possible and if it is useful in the interests of the consuming public that aspect will be taken up also."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that certain persons have been appointed as wholesalers-*cum*-retailers?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I am not quite certain. If the hon. Member knows that, I have nothing more to add to his information." (Laughter.)

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that handloom cloths are included in the control policy regarding textiles, and if so, why there is no reference to handloom cloth in the statement placed on the table of the House?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, the question of control is only in respect of mill cloth. Anybody can take out a licence to sell handloom cloth. Export of it to other provinces is also allowed. So there is no question of control with regard to it on the lines of control in respect of mill cloth."

3-15 p.m. K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it a fact that there is accumulation of a large quantity of handloom cloth in the Province on account of restrictions on export?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Have the Madras Government addressed the Government of India to relax the restrictions on export to Pakistan and other countries in order to alleviate the suffering of handloom weavers and traders?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" We have addressed the Government of India pointing out the various types of cloth manufactured in this Province, the hardships caused to the weavers and traders by restrictions on export and

how they could be remedied. We hope that something will be done in this matter by the Government of India as early as possible."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Have this Government received any concrete proposal from the Government of India so far? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" There is no question of the Central Government making any concrete proposals to the Provincial Government. Export to other countries is a subject which is dealt with by the Central Government. This Government have made the necessary representations. I hope the Central Government will formulate their plan very soon to help the suffering people."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" Is it a fact that the wholesalers are not distributing equitably to the retailers? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I have not heard any such complaint. If my hon. Friend has any complaint with him, I should like him to pass it on to me so that I may make an enquiry."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" Is it not a fact that unstamped cloth is cheaper than stamped cloth? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I am glad that there is cheaper cloth available, as it is for the good of the consumers."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have issued instructions to the Collectors that in the selection of licensees, they should give preference to former licensees with a clean record? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have received any complaint that old licensees with a good record have not been chosen in some cases, while those who have never been in the trade have been chosen? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" There have been some complaints to that effect. We call for reports from the Collectors and examine the complaints in the light of such reports. We are trying to redress the grievance as far as possible and see that there is a just and equitable distribution of licences by the Collectors."

Population of this Province.

* 196 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the estimated population of this Province for the mid-year in 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948;

(*b*) the percentage increase in each year;